

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 EB-08 IO-14 /089 W

-----013396 300632Z /13

R 291110Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8195

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 3213

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, ASEAN, VN

SUBJECT: RAJARATNAM ON ASEAN RELATIONS WITH INDOCHINA

REF: SINGAPORE 3031

1. IN A PRESS INTERVIEW PUBLISHED 7/28, GOS FM RAJARATNAM COMMENTED THAT THE INDOCHINESE STATES HAD RESPONDED "WITH WORK PLAY" TO ASEAN OFFERS OF FRIENDSHIP. "ON ONE HAND," RAJA SAID, "THEY SAY THEY DON'T WANT TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHERS AND WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH ALL. ON THE OTHER, IN THE NEXT PARAGRAPH, THEY SAY THEY HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO SUPPORT THE PEOPLES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA TO BECOME MORE GENUINELY INDEPENDENT. THE SECOND CONTRADICTS THE FIRST AND IT DOESN'T MEAN A THING AT ALL. THIS IS SOMETHING WE HAVE TO ACCEPT AND NOT GET UNDULY WORRIED BY WHAT THEY SAY. WE HAVE TO TAKE IT IN OUR STRIDE. WE HAVE TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN WHAT THEY SAY AND WHAT THEY DO.

2. "MORE IMPORTANT IS NOT WHAT THE INDOCHINESE THINK OF US BUT WHAT OUR PEOPLE THINK OF US. THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO STRENGTHEN ASEAN. WE EMBRACE OVER 200 MILLION PEOPLE AND IF WE CAN SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS
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AND STRENGTHEN OURSELVES ECONOMICALLY, WE WILL HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR. WE WILL HAVE NO DIFFICULTY GETTING FRIENDS. AND THOSE WHO ARE NOT SO FRIENDLY, THERE IS VERY LITTLE THEY CAN DO TO US. WORDS DO NOT KILL ANYBODY. HENCE, ALL THE MORE REASON WHY WE MUST HELP OURSELVES. BUT WE SHOULD KEEP THE DOOR OPEN AND REMAIN VIGILANT AT THE SAME TIME
."

3. RAJA WENT ON TO DOWNPLAY THE IDEA OF A "SUPER-ASEAN," A NEW GROUP ENCOMPASSING THE FIVE ASEAN NATIONS PLUS THE INDOCHINESE STATES AND POSSIBLY BURMA. HE SAID THERE WERE ALREADY ENOUGH REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE IDEA HAS NOT BEEN MENTIONED BY THE SRV OR ANY OF THE ASEAN STATES.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: RAJARATNAM'S LOW-KEY DISMISSAL OF SRV CRITICISM OF ASEAN IS DIFFERENT IN STYLE BUT NOT IN SUBSTANCE FROM THE REBUTTALS
OTHER ASEAN FIGURES, SUCH AS GOI FM MALIK, HAVE GIVEN TO SRV CRITICISM.
IN OTHER SECTION OF THE INTERVIEW, RAJA REPEATED (REFTEL) HIS GLOOMY ASSESSMENT OF THE ASEAN INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 29-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Document Unique ID: 00
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